


Joseph & Michelle Vega Guerrero



September 8, 2018

Magistrate Judge Marianne B. Bowler
John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse
1 Courthouse Way, Suite 2300
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

RE: Mr. Ross McLellan
Case No. 16-cr-10094-LTS

Dear Judge Bowler,

I am writing to you regarding the pending sentencing of Ross McLellan, my friend and fellow Hingham resident. I have known Ross for about 10 years. I met Ross, and his wonderful family, when other friends arranged for an outing at Duxbury Beach. Admittedly, I at first thought Ross was aloof and appeared more interested in what the kids were up to than in carrying a conversation with the adults. Ross was simply demonstrating two of his greatest qualities: concern and being authentic. His concern for all the kids (mine, his and our friends'), ensuring they were settled and safe, reflect the essence of the individual that I have gotten to know.

I recall a few specific examples of Ross living his core moral code and qualities. There is someone in our town who has battled cancer. I will refer to her as "Jane". Jane's son is a very energetic boy. With Ross having 3 boys of his own, Jane's son would play with Ross's boys regularly as they were in the same general neighborhood. As Jane was recovering from surgery and dealing with chemotherapy and its side effects, Ross and Lisa were welcoming the young boy to their home and activities without reservation. Many times, the boy would be in their house before the McLellan's would wake up and he simply joined them for breakfast as Jane was home recuperating. I don't know this from Ross or Lisa, rather having observed this when carpooling with Ross to sports activities. There was the boy, welcomed, with Ross & Lisa giving him a sense of comfort when he needed a level of support & compassion.

On another occasion, Ross and I both volunteered (along with other parents) for a nature retreat over 2 nights with the local elementary school. Our boys were both in the same 4th Grade class and the principal arranged for this event that included visits to many natural outdoor locations on Cape Cod. During one of the outdoor outings, on an unusually warm September day, the above referenced boys' mother volunteered too. She was in remission and, given the amount of physical activity, felt unwell. Quietly, Ross attended to her and took her the appropriate health service providers. Again, no lime light, just concerned and authentic in caring for others.

Ross loves hockey and was a goalie in his younger days. He is a coach and board member of the local youth hockey program. Ross's involvement and focus on ensuring the kids had fun and learned the game created a great environment for many kids. Ross has this ability to manage the distraction of the politics and bias of the evaluation process and ensure that the experience of the kids is not tarnished. When invariably there is an issue, like I had with my younger son, Ross was there to lend an ear and look to ensure my son was treated fairly. In fact, with all of Ross's professional challenges 2 days prior to his arrest, unbeknownst to me, he made time for me to understand my son's situation. He intervened on my son's behalf as he wanted to ensure my son's best interests were being served. In hindsight, he had many more pressing matters bearing down on him, though he made the time for me given his concern for a friend and the values he lives daily.

Ross doesn't like to ask for help and I believe he deplores the notion. Perhaps that's an outgrowth of his upbringing or simply because he takes great pleasure in helping others in an inconspicuous manner. Even when his parents were ailing and passed within a couple months of each other, he and Lisa stoically addressed the challenge. When my own father passed away last year, I was overwhelmed when Ross walked through the doors of the funeral home some 2.5 hours away from Hingham to simply pay his respects to my mom and give me and my family a hug. Authentic concern and compassion are hallmarks of Ross McLellan.

Ross and Lisa conduct themselves with humility and generosity. That much hasn't changed despite the ongoing legal process. The toll, however, is evident. Regardless of the outcome of the trial and his pending sentencing, Ross and his family have already paid an enormous amount. Notwithstanding the end of his professional career, the economic strain and mistruths being gossiped, the greatest concern and impact is with his children. The kids have the residual impact of having to deal with bullies, social media and ignorance of others frequently. That will not stop anytime soon, if ever. Ross will have to carry that guilt forever, right or wrong, and his family continues to experience direct punishment for the situation.

I recognize the magnitude of the situation that Ross, and his family, now face. While Ross does not like to burden others with this, or other, challenges life presents his family, he remains steadfastly focused on preparing his family for any potential scenario. My intention is to briefly demonstrate to you the nature of Ross, the attributes of his character and the already exorbitant price and punishment his family will endure in perpetuity. I hope you agree that incarceration will not serve his community well and will only further punish his family beyond the loss of his profession, ongoing financial challenges and harassment that his children have and will continue to face.

Very sincerely yours,



Joseph M. Guerrero